

Story 1571 (1992 Tape 2)

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of Nevşehir Province

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Look in Your Wife's Eyes and Locate My Donkey

One day while Nasreddin Hoca¹ was searching for his lost donkey, he grew very tired. He went to the nearest house he could see and knocked on the door, but nobody answered knock. Entering the house, he discovered that there was no one inside. Being quite exhausted, he lay down on a bed and fell asleep.

After a while the owners of the house returned. When the Hoca heard the sound of their approach, he quickly beneath the bed for fear that the owners would consider him a thief.

The owners were a newlywed couple. They sat down on the bed, and the husband began to make compliments about his wife's beauty. He said, "When I look into your eyes, I can see İstanbul! In fact, when I gaze into your eyes, I can see everywhere in the world!"

When Nasreddin Hoca heard that remark, he came out from beneath the bed and spoke to the husband. He said, "If you

¹A hoca is a preacher and the religious leader of a community. In pre-Republican times the hoca was also the community teacher. Separation of church and state in the Republic required that teachers be people of secular rather than of religious training. Nasreddin Hoca is Turkey's most popular comic folk character.

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can see the whole world by looking into her eyes, then you can probably tell me where my lost donkey is located. Tell me this: where is my donkey?